



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Helene Nelson, Secretary

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For Immediate Release

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ROCK COUNTY RECEIVES FAMILY CARE PLANNING GRANT

MADISON – The Department of Health and Family Services has awarded a \$30,000 grant to Rock County to help create a care management organization that will expand Family Care into Rock County. Rock County will partner with Dane County and other entities to develop Family Care and explore the potential of integrating acute and primary care into the program county-wide. The proposal also expands their current services for elders and people with physical disabilities and plans for the future inclusion of adults with developmental disabilities.

In January, Governor Doyle set a goal of expanding the innovative Family Care program statewide within five years and eliminating all wait lists for long-term care services. Family Care allows seniors and people with disabilities the choice to receive long-term care services in their own homes and communities. Family Care provides an entitlement to long-term care, using Medicaid dollars flexibly and not just earmarking dollars for nursing home care.

“Seniors and people with disabilities overwhelmingly prefer home and community care options and shouldn’t be forced into nursing homes if that’s not what they want or need,” said Secretary Helene Nelson. “Family Care has proven people can get the long-term care they need and prefer, and that this can save money for taxpayers by helping people stay healthy, happy and independent.”

Currently, Rock County supports more than 1,062 people in community based long term care programs, but another 219 are on waitlists. There are more than 775 people in nursing homes in Rock County.

Governor Doyle and Secretary Nelson have awarded \$1.4 million in grants to communities around the state to lay the groundwork for expanding Family Care statewide and eliminating waiting lists for community-based long term care. While Wisconsin has been a national leader in offering community-based alternatives to nursing home care, about 11,500 people are on waitlists for community care statewide.

Family Care currently operates in Fond du Lac, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Portage and Richland counties. An independent assessment found that Family Care saved an average of \$452 per person, per month in total Medical Assistance expenditures in the four non-Milwaukee counties during 2003 and 2004. Family Care also saved money in Milwaukee County.

For more information about Family Care, go to <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/LTCare/>

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